

CHAPTER 4: 7D SEMI-ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

7D Semi-Annual Inspections: In addition to the annual state inspection, 7D vehicles are required to have a semi-annual safety inspection in accordance with M.G.L. c.90, s. 7A. These additional inspections take place in February-March and again in October-November. 7D inspections are not incorporated with the yearly state inspection so you may need to locate a station other than your normal state inspection facility. You can find a listing of all 7D inspection stations by city or town on the RMV website at:

www.mass.gov/rmv

7D inspection stickers are affixed to the center of the windshield just below the roofline. The February-March sticker is green and is valid from February 1 through November 30. The October-November sticker is orange and is valid from October 1 through March 31. During the months of February-March and October-November in which inspections are conducted, a vehicle may display either a green or orange sticker. The 7D inspection sticker is marked with different years. When the vehicle receives its semi-annual 7D inspection, the inspector punches a hole in the year in which the sticker will expire. Figure 4 shows sample spring and fall stickers.

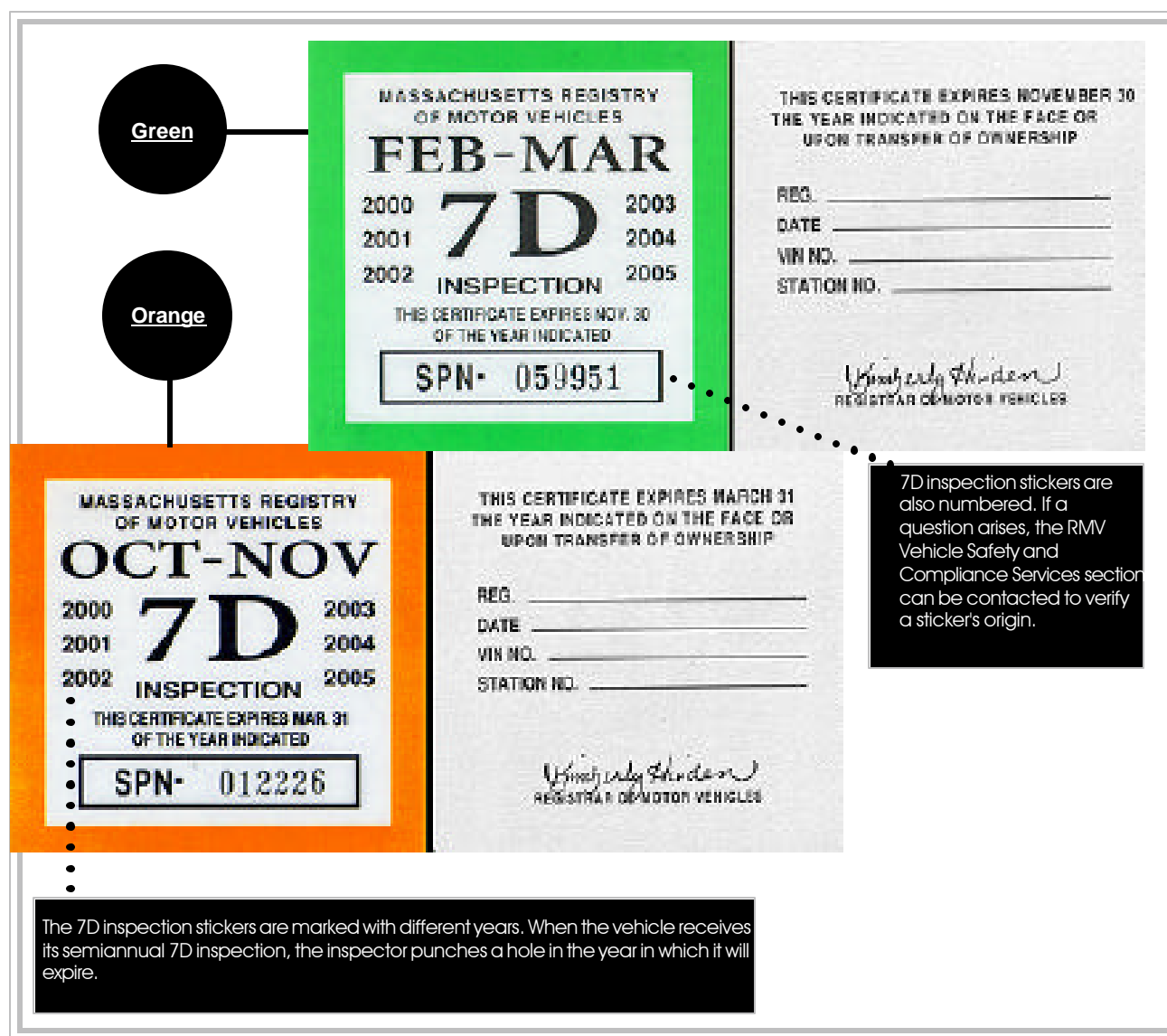


Figure 4: Sample 7D Semi-Annual Inspection Stickers

GUIDE TO 7D VEHICLE INSPECTION

The following tables list the basic vehicle components and required equipment that will be inspected during a 7D inspection.

I. INSIDE THE VEHICLE		
	Item to Check	Requirements
1	Floors, including trunk	No holes that may allow toxic fumes into the passenger compartment may be present
2	Brakes	Brakes are checked for any throw, grinding or pressure drop, lateral pull of vehicle. The parking brake is also checked for proper operation
3	Seat belts	Must be present and in proper working order
4.	Rearview mirror/sunvisor	
5	Windshield	
6	Two operable windshield wipers	
7	Defroster/heater	
8	Horn	
9	Seats and inside panels	
10	Ignition lock	
11	Speedometer	
12	Instruments, lamps, gauges	
13	Sharp or protruding objects	No such defects must be present

II. ENGINE COMPARTMENT		
	Item to Check	Requirements
1	Battery	Must be in good working order
2	Belts	
3	Hood latch	
4	Steering box	

III. FRONT OF VEHICLE		
	Item to Check	Requirements
1	Head lights – Low and high beam	Must be in good working order
2	Four way flashers and directionals	
3	Bumper	Must be present and in good condition
4	Registration plate - School pupil	Must have school-pupil plate, operational plate light, and current registration decal

IV. SIDES OF VEHICLE		
	<u>Item to Check</u>	<u>Requirements</u>
1	Windows	Operable
2	Mirrors	Equipped with a minimum of a driver's side mirror
3	Marker lights	Must be present and working
4	Tires	Properly inflated without any fabric showing, Tire grooves (minimum 2/32"), No Missing or broken studs/nuts, No Mixing of types of tires, No space saver tires are allowed
5	Fenders	Tires may not extend beyond fenders. No sharp edges or protrusions
6	Doors	Must open and close properly and be capable of being firmly latched, All doors must have a buzzer or warning light to warn driver of an open door

V. REAR OF VEHICLE		
	<u>Item to Check</u>	<u>Requirements</u>
1	Door or trunk	Must open and close properly and be capable of being firmly latched
2	Four way hazards/directionals/stop and reverse lights	Must be present and working
3	Bumper	Must be present and in good condition
4	Registration plate	Must have School Pupil plate, operational plate light, and current registration decal

VI. UNDERNEATH VEHICLE		
	<u>Item to Check</u>	<u>Requirements</u>
1	Fluid leaks	Must not have any visible fluid leaks
2	Front end/suspension system	Must be working and in good condition
3	Shocks	
4	Muffler/exhaust	Must be present and in good condition
5	Springs	
6	Fuel tank	

VII. ADDITIONAL MARKINGS, SIGNAGE, LIGHTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT RELATED TO 7D VEHICLE		
	Item to Check	Requirements
1	School bus sign (8" black lettering on front and rear of vehicle)	Must be present and operate as designed
2	Front and rear alternating flashing "School Bus" red signal lamps	
3	Emergency buzzer or warning light to alert the driver of any open door	
4	Safety belts for each permanent seat (including operator's seat)	Designed and installed per U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle (FMV) Safety Standards
5	Fire extinguisher	Charged and mounted within reach of the operator. (Extinguishers shall be a type approved by the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. with a total rating of 2A10BC)
6	First aid kit	Sufficiently stocked for expected vehicle occupancy
7	Three (3) flares meeting U.S. DOT FMV Safety Standard # 125, or Triangles	Must be present
8	Chock blocks (2 required)	
9	Markings	If transporting Special Needs pupils (min 4 inches square lettering identifying name and address of owner is required per M.G.L. c.90 Sec. 7CC.
10	Vehicle Inspection Sticker (required after registration)	Must be current and affixed to the vehicle
11	7D Semi-Annual Inspection Sticker	Must be current and affixed to the vehicle